

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. An image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image forming section; and

5 a sheet feed apparatus aligned to feed a sheet to the image forming section and comprising

a sheet feed roller in pressing contact with an uppermost sheet of a plurality of sheets, and

10 a tilt member opposing the sheet feed roller, said tilt member including

a contact face in pressing contact with the sheet feed roller, and

15 a tilt face in contact with an edge of the uppermost sheet, said tilt face and said contact face each comprising one of

polybutylene terephthalate (PBT),

polyethylene (PE),

15 metal,

poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK), and

polyimide (PI).

2. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said tilt face and said

20 contact face each comprise polybutylene terephthalate (PBT).

3. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said tilt face and said

contact face each comprise polyethylene (PE).

25 4. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said tilt face and said

contact face each comprise metal.

5. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said tilt face and said

contact face each comprise poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK).

30

6. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise polyimide (PI).

7. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise:

polybutylene terephthalate (PBT),
polyethylene (PE),
metal,
poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK), and
5 polyimide (PI).

8. The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said entire tilt member comprises at least one of:

polybutylene terephthalate (PBT);
10 polyethylene (PE);
metal;
poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK); and
polyimide (PI).

15 9. The image forming apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said tilt member comprises:

a support member comprising at least one of
ABS resin;
polyacetal (POM);
20 polybutylene terephthalate (PBT); and
polycarbonate (PC).

10. A sheet feed apparatus, comprising:

a sheet feed roller in pressing contact with an uppermost sheet of a plurality of sheets;

25 and

a tilt member opposing the sheet feed roller, said tilt member including
a contact face in pressing contact with the sheet feed roller, and
a tilt face in contact with an edge of the uppermost sheet, said tilt face and said
contact face each comprising one of
30 polybutylene terephthalate (PBT),
polyethylene (PE),
metal,
poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK), and
polyimide (PI).

11. The sheet feed apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise polybutylene terephthalate (PBT).

5 12. The sheet feed apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise polyethylene (PE).

10 13. The sheet feed apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise metal.

14. The sheet feed apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK).

15 15. The sheet feed apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise polyimide (PI).

16. The sheet feed apparatus according to claim 10, said entire tilt member comprising at least one of:

polybutylene terephthalate (PBT);

20 polyethylene (PE);

metal;

poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK); and

polyimide (PI).

25 17. A face for use in a sheet separator tilt member of a sheet feed apparatus, comprising:

a face comprising one of

polybutylene terephthalate (PBT),

polyethylene (PE),

30 metal,

poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK), and

polyimide (PI),

wherein the face is at least one of a contact face and a tilt face.

18. The face according to claim 17, wherein said face comprises polybutylene terephthalate (PBT).

19. The face according to claim 17, wherein said face comprises polyethylene (PE).

5

20. The face according to claim 17, wherein said face comprises metal.

21. The face according to claim 17, wherein said face comprises poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK).

10

22. The face according to claim 17, wherein said face and said contact face each comprises polyimide (PI).

23. A sheet feed apparatus, comprising:

15

means for sequentially feeding sheets to an imaging device; and

means for separating individual sheets with a tilt member comprising a tilt face and a contact face each comprising one of

polybutylene terephthalate (PBT),

polyethylene (PE),

metal,

poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK), and

polyimide (PI).

20

24. In a method for feeding sheets to an imaging device, the improvement

25 comprising:

separating individual sheets with a tilt member comprising a tilt face and a contact face each comprising one of:

polybutylene terephthalate (PBT),

polyethylene (PE),

metal,

poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK), and

polyimide (PI).

30

25. The method according to claim 24, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise polybutylene terephthalate (PBT).

26. The method according to claim 24, wherein said tilt face and said contact face
5 each comprise polyethylene (PE).

27. The method according to claim 24, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise metal.

10 28. The method according to claim 24, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise poly-ether-ether-ketone (PEEK).

29. The method according to claim 24, wherein said tilt face and said contact face each comprise polyimide (PI).